

ENGLAND  
PETITION  
TO THEIR  
KING.

OR

An humble *Petition* of the distressed and al-  
most destroyed Subjects of ENGLAND,  
*To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.*

Containing (in the judgement of the wise) the  
very sense of all the true - hearted of the Kingdom;  
but because the way to the Kings eare is stopt, it was sent  
to LONDON, and there printed, as it is  
*briefly declared to the Reader.*

---

EXOD. 10. 7.

*Knowest thou not yet that our Canaan is destroyed?*

---

Printed on the day of Jacobs Trouble, and to make  
way (in hope) for its deliverance out of it.

To the obvious not desired Reader.

GOOD Friend, We would have you know this Petition was intended onely for his Majesties view, but because plain dealing is seldome well taken, and his Majestie so guarded from the Requests of his Subjects, we are therefore forced to submit it to your common view, and to turne it out, in hope his Majesty may light of one Copie, and seriously reade it, and lay to heart the distresse of the miserable: if you censure it as the worke of some few discontented persons, Know you it is the sense of our part of the Kingdom, and if you will promise us freedome and hopes of successe, we'll soone returne it you with the hands of 1000000. If you condemne us for speaking too plainly, Know that misery makes men forget good manners; and dying men use not complements; We are in the case of the Lepers, If we sit still we perish, therefore we will move in the way of hope, and goe in to the King, though it be not according to Law, and if we perish, we perish. Yet know, we will come farre short of the plainnesse of better persons and times,

To the Kings most Excellent Majestie;

The humble Petition of Your distressed and almost  
destroyed Subjects of Your Kingdome of England,

READE SOVERAIGNE, It is a double grieve to  
our soules, that we should be constrained to beg for  
our lives at Your hands, who are bound by the Law  
of God and nature, and by Your Oath, to preserve  
them, and that we should be forced to entreat You  
to spare our estates, liberties, and bloud, whose ho-  
nour and strength depends so much on these our enjoyments; But  
extremity prevaileth and drives us to You, and casteth us here pro-  
strate at the feet of Your Majestic: And let not Your Majesty be of-  
fended, if we speake more plainly then usually becometh us; for ne-  
cessitie hath no law: It is for our lives and more, and therefore blame  
us not to speake; our friends, our wives, our children, our wants, our  
dangers, our Countrey, our bloud, do all pierce our eares and hearts  
with their daily & dolefull cryes; Oh that our requests could finde  
as quick accesoisse to Yours! Surely its impossible Your Majesty should  
be ignorant of the dolefull condition Your two Kingdomes are in;  
Doe You not know that our houses are plundered, and the fruit of  
our long labours taken from us; that men who have heretofore re-  
lieved hundreds of the poore, have not left them a bed to lye on,  
food to sustain them, or a house to put their heads in? And the poore  
they were wont to relieve, are forced to become Souldiers, that they  
may rob us by authoritie. Know You not how many thousand dis-  
tressed soules cry to God day & night, in their anguish and misery,  
while they see You the Father of their Countrey, having no com-  
passion on hem? Oh! where is now Your Majesties ancient cle-  
mency? You were wont if we lost our estates by Pyrates, or but a  
house by fire, to graunt Your gracious Letters Patents for our re-  
lief; but now Your Souldiers burne us of all, and burns our houses

To the obvious not desired Reader.

GOOD Friend, We would have you know this Petition was intended onely for his Majesties view, but because plain dealing is seldome well taken, and his Majestie so guarded from the Requests of his Subjects, we are therefore forced to submit it to your common view, and to turne it out, in hope his Majesty may light of one Copie, and seriously reade it, and lay to heart the distresse of the miserable: if you censure it as the worke of some few discontented persons, Know you it is the sense of our \* part of the Kingdom, and if you will promise us freedome and hopes of successse, we'll soone returne it you with the hands of 1000000. If you condemne us for speaking too plainly, Know that misery makes men forget good manners; and dying men use not complements; We are in the case of the Lepers, If we sit still we perish, therefore we will move in the way of hope, and goe in to the King, though it be not according to Law, and if we perish we perish. Yet know, we will come farre short of the plannesse of better persons and times,  
2 Sam. 12. 7. 1. King. 18. 18. &c. &c. &c.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty;

The humble Petition of Your distressed and almost  
destroyed Subjects of Your Kingdome of England.

**D**E A D S O V E R A I G N E, Its a double griefe to our soules, that we should be constrained to beg for our lives at Your hands, who are bound by the Law of God and nature, and by Your Oath, to preserve them, and that we should be forced to entreat You to spare our estates, liberties, and bloud, whose honour and strength depends so much on these our enjoyments: But extremity prevaleth and drives us to You, and casteth us here prostrate at the feet of Your Majestic: And let not Your Majesty be offended, if we speake more plainly then usually becometh us; for necessitie hath no law: It is for our lives and more, and therefore blame us not to speake; our friends, our wifes, our children our wants, our dangers, our Countrey, our bloud, do all pierce our eares and hearts with their daily & dolefull cryes; Oh that our requests could finde as quick accesoisse to Yours! Surely its impossible Your Majesty should be ignorant of the dolefull condition Your two Kingdomes are in; Doe You not know that our houses are plundered, and the fruit of our long labours taken from us; that men who have heretofore relieved hundreds of the poore, have not left them a bed to lye on, food to sustain them, or a house to put their heads in? And the poore they were wont to relieve, are forced to become Souldiers, that they may rob us by authoritie. Know You not how many thousand distressed soules cry to God day & night, in their anguish and misery, while they see You the Father of their Countrey, having no compassion on hem? Oh! where is now Your Majesties ancient clemency? You were wont if we lost our estates by Pyrates, or but a houle by fire, to grant Your gracious Letters Patents for our relief; but now Your Souldiers rob us of all, and burne our houses to

ou ; But we beseech You call not this bearing Arms against You ;  
 may be against your will ; but if any of your now followers be more  
 ipective of your royall authoritie established by Law, more truely  
 under of your person and honour then we ; then let not God prosper  
 our proceedings, but cause us to fall before them, and give us up into  
 eir hands. We are fallen upon by the cruell, and because we will  
 not dye quietly & without resistance, we are accused as traytors and  
 emies to your Majesty. We beseech your Majesty, consider in the  
 presence of God, if your own Father & King had run upon you with  
 his drawne sword, whether would You have suffered death without  
 resistance, or have taken the sword *pro tempore* out of his hand ? and  
 ift neither be averse to his honour & person, or his propriety in his  
 weapon. Doth not nature teach us the preservation of our selves ?  
 Will not the eyewinke without deliberation, and the smalleſt worme  
 turne back, if you tread on it ? And beside nature , we have frequent  
 accidents in ſacred Writing, for even more then defensive resistance of  
 transcendent Monarcke, 1 Sam. 14.44,45. 1 Sam.23.11,13. 2 King.  
 0.12,13. 2 Chro.26.18.20. Dan.6.14.&c. But if all this were no  
 thing, yet we know your Majestie hath paſſed an act for the continu  
 al of this Parliament : and ſure that Act muſt needs meane a Par  
 liament with its power and authoritie, and not the meere name and  
 kasse of a Parliament ; Its not onely that they ſhall ſtay together  
 at London, and doe nothing, or no more then another Court ; but that  
 they continue your chiefe Counſell, your chiefe Court, and have  
 legislative power, which are your Parliaments peculiar proper  
 ties. And if your Majestie hath enacted the coniuinance of a reall Par  
 liament in its power, who ſeeth not that You have thereby joyned  
 them your royall authority, though not your person ? Doth not  
 your Majestie in your Expresses oft mention your ſelfe a part of the  
 Parliament and that the head without which the body cannot live ?  
 Is the Parliament vali'd without your authoritie ? therfore if your  
 Majestie may and have withdrawne from them your roya'l authori  
 ty, when you may and have broke your own Lawes ; which we dare  
 judge after ſo many ſoleinne Proclamations to maintaine and rule  
 the known Lawes : wherfore we hope your Majestie muſt needs

discerne that we fight not against You, but for your knowne establish authority in Parliament. And we hope your Majesty will not deny them to be your entire Parliament ; for is the Act recalld whereby they were established ? if not, how can they cease to be your Parliament ? neither let the fault be laid on part of them ; for we all know the *Major* part hath the authority of the whole ; and if it were the *Minor* part, why did not, or doth not the *Major* over-vote them ? And we beseech your Majesty blame us not to think our Religion and al liyes at the stake, while we looke back by what a traine Popery had been almost brought upon us by that party, and see them still the chiefe in favour, and when so many Papists *English* and forreigne are now in *Armes* against us, and know no one Papist in the Land that is not zealous in the cause. Wonder not, *Dread Soveraigne*, if we hardly beleeve that those come now to save us, who in 88. and the Powder Plott, would so cruelly have destroyed us : that Papists should be most zealous in fighting for the Protestant Religion, and Delinquents ( proceeded against in Parliament, ) should stand for the priviledges and Laws of the Parliament ; that oppressing Monopolists should fight for the Subjects Liberties, seem all riddles and paradoxes to us. Blame us not, we beseech You, to feare, while we see no contradiction appeare to Mounsieur *de Chesne* his booke, sold openly for many yeares, not in *Paris* onely, but in *London*, and read a Court, which records your Majesties Letter to the Pope, promising to venture Crowne and all to unite us to *Rome* againe.

*Dread soveraigne*, many Princes have gone astray through strenght of temptation, and after have been happy in repenting and returning. Oh that the *Lord* would make it your case, and glorifie his mercy on You and us, in making knowne to You the thing concerning our peace, and not his Justice in hardning You to destruction : that it may never be read in our Chronicle by the generations to come, that *England* had a Prince who lived and dyed in seeking the desolation of his people, and the Church of God. Your Majesty knoweth there is a King & a Judge above You ; before whom You must very shortly stand and give account of your Government ; We desire You in the presence of that God, to thinke, and thinke seriously, and think

gaine how sad it will be, to have all this bloud charged on your  
soule ; Can your Majesty thinke of this with comfort when You are  
dying ? Can these Counsellors that now put you on, then bring You  
safely off ? Your Majesty may despise what we say, and cast away  
our Petition, and tread downe your poore people, and judge us your  
enemies, because we tell you the truth, and speake as dying men in  
the sorrow of our soules ; but You cannot so put by Divine Justice,  
or quiet conscience at the last : As true as the Lord liveth, your Ma-  
jesty will one day know that Blasphemers, Papists, and flatterers, are  
not your friends ; but plaine dealers, who doe assure You, the way  
You take, tends to the utter ruine and destruction of your Selfe and  
Kingdome. And can *your heart endure*, or can *your hands be strong*, in  
*the day the Lord will reckon with You* for *His* people committed to  
your charge ? Oh ! suppose You now heard the bloud of your peo-  
ple already spilt, crying in your eares, and saw the many thousands  
yet living a life worse then death, lying in their sorrows at your feet,  
crying for pitty, help, oh King Help, or we lose our liberties, Lawes,  
lives and Religion ; help that your Selfe and Royall posteritie, be  
not Princes of an impoverished desolate Nation : help as ever You  
would have God help You in the day of death and judgement, when  
your Selfe shall cry for helpe and pittie ; help that deliverance come  
not some other way, while You & your Fathers house are destroyed.  
The Lord God of our hopes, who hath for our sinnes most justly af-  
flicted us in You, give your Majesty a discerning eye, a holy and ten-  
der heart, to yeeld to the Petition of your distressed Subjects, To re-  
gnne to and concurre with your Parliament, that God and man may for-  
get your mistakings, and You may be the blessedest Prince that ever  
reigned in our Land, the terror of your reall enemies, the joy of  
your people, and the glory of posteritie ; Such shall be the daily and  
heartie prayers of

To your Majesties loyall ( how ever effe-  
med ) Subjects, &c.

F I N I S.